has affected very badly due to delay in the implementation of the International Airport Project at Devanahalli, near Bangalore;

(b) when the foundation stone for the proposed project was laid by the Hon'ble Prime Minister;

(c) what are the reasons for delay in granting statutory clearances to the proposed project;

(d) whether Government are aware that the consortium could not go ahead with the proposed project due to delay in giving statutory clearances; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to give statutory clearances early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Disinvestment Plans of IA and AI

642. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finally decided to abandon its disinvestment plans for Indian Airlines and Air India in order to facilitate the acquisition of aircraft for fleet modernisation; and

(b) if so, what are the modernisation plan for the two airlines and time-frame for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Acquisition of aircraft for Air India and Indian Airlines would be taken up after a decision is taken in the matter of disinvestment.

Expansion of AI network

643. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the expansion of Air India network;